

Reuse • Recycle • Conserve

City of Kirkland Public Works Department

**WATCH FOR UPCOMING EVENTS**

Special Collection Event (April 19)

Earth Day Volunteer Event (April 19)

Visit us at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us**INSIDE**

Car Washing

Doggy Doo's and Don'ts

Don't Flush Those Pills!

Confused About Plastics Recycling?

Spring Gardening-----Naturally

Can't wait to get back into the garden? Why not try natural yard care this year? By working with nature in your yard, you can have a great looking landscape that's easier to care for and healthier for families, pets, wildlife, and our environment.

Start with these 5 steps:

1. Build healthy soil with compost and mulch
2. Plant right for your site
3. Practice smart watering
4. Think twice before using pesticides
5. Practice natural yard care

Go to dnr.metrokc.gov/topics/yard-and-garden/ for more information on these 5 steps.



Natural Garden Happenings

Northwest Natural Yard Days runs April 15 to May 15. It is a great opportunity to stock up on discounted natural yard care products. (www.kingcounty.gov and search for NNYD)

Natural Yard Care Neighbors workshops (April 22, May 6, May 20) are back in Kirkland this spring. We are focusing on the Highlands neighborhood this year, but all Kirkland residents are invited to attend. Please call (425) 587-3858 or email badams@ci.kirkland.wa.us for more information or to sign up.

The **Spring Garden Fair** takes place this year on April 26 in Redmond. Highlights include: gardening seminars featuring Cisco Morris, a plant sale, and discounts on compost containers and rain barrels. Check out www.springgardenfair.com for details.

For more information about natural yard care, contact the Natural Yard Hotline at (206) 633-0224 or info@lawnandgardenhotline.org.

Don't Let Car Washing Circle the Drain!

Are you peering through a layer of winter windshield grime? Are you thinking about grabbing the ol' bucket and hose and getting to work? Runoff from home car washing can be harmful to fish and other critters who live in lakes and streams. Here are some things to think about before washing your car...



The best option is to use a commercial car wash. Most car washes recycle their water and any water that is not recycled goes to the sanitary sewer and on to the sewage treatment plant.

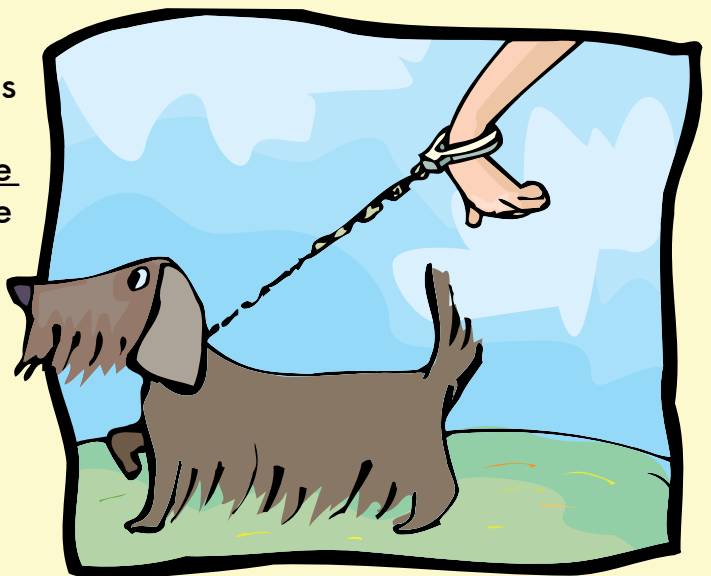
If you do wash your car at home, do so with biodegradable soap on a gravel driveway or on a lawn where the soils can absorb most of the soapy, dirty wash water. Car washing on pavement allows the wash water to run into the storm drain and then into the nearest stream or lake.

Help reduce water pollution! Call (425) 587-3858 for a free car wash ticket. Supplies are limited; one ticket per person please.

Doggy Doo's and Don'ts

There are more than 11,600 dogs in Kirkland that produce almost 2 tons of poop each day!

Whether you walk your dog or send him out into the yard to do his business, please be sure to scoop the poop, bag it, and place it in the trash. You might think of dog waste as being natural compost, but it is really raw sewage – it contains harmful organisms that can be transmitted to your family, your pets, and local streams and lakes. Our landfill is designed to safely handle substances such as dog waste, cat litter, and dirty diapers.







Confused About Plastics Recycling?

Ignore the numbers on the bottoms of the containers - the number indicates the resin (a type of plastic) content and does not have much to do with whether it can be recycled or not. The cost of recycling some items exceeds the value of recycled plastic.

Recycle only plastic bottles, tubs, jugs, and jars.



RECYCLE**	DO NOT RECYCLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plastic bottles – e.g. water, soft drink, shampoo and juice bottles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plastic caps or lids• Bubble wrap• Flower pots
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plastic jugs – e.g. milk, juice and laundry detergent jugs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plastic bags (any type)• Packaging or wrapping
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plastic cups and utensils• Plastic food trays
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Round dairy tubs – e.g. cottage cheese, yogurt and margarine tubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading glasses• 6-pack rings• Styrofoam
<p>** Rinse containers and throw away lids and caps.</p>	

Don't Flush Those Pills!

You can now return unwanted and expired medication for free and safe disposal at participating local pharmacies. Protect your family, your community, and the environment! Old medications left in the medicine cabinet can often be used by mistake. If thrown in the garbage or flushed down the toilet, they can give an unintended dose to fish and other wildlife.

How to Return Your Unwanted Medicine:

- Gather unwanted medications in their original containers and mark out any personal information on the bottle if you wish.
- Take the medications to a participating pharmacy.
- Deposit the medications into the secure bin marked "Medication Return."

Accepted Items:

- Prescription medications
- Over-the-counter medications
- Medication samples
- Medications for pets
- Vitamins
- Medicated ointments/lotions
- Inhalers
- Liquid medication in glass or leakproof containers

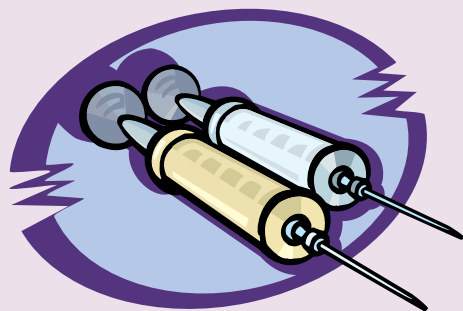
For details on the program and a list of participating pharmacies, see www.medicinereturn.com or call the State Department of Ecology Hotline at 1-800-RECYCLE.



Medical Sharps Disposal Options

Exposure to medical sharps in the garbage presents a significant health hazard to solid waste workers from the curb to the transfer station to the landfill. One accepted method to dispose of sharps has been to place them in a capped, labeled plastic two liter pop bottle. That's no longer the case: the thin plastics used in today's bottles are no longer puncture-proof so the bottles are not regarded as safe containers for sharps. In fact, sharps may soon be banned from being disposed of in your garbage in King County!

Many local pharmacies such as Bartell Drugs have free drop-off collection programs. Fee-for-service mail back programs are offered through Waste Management (www.wastemd.com) and GRP & Associates (www.sharpsdisposal.com).



Comments

The City of Kirkland would like to hear your comments about this newsletter or your suggestions for future issues. Please call (425) 587-3907 or email vlock@ci.kirkland.wa.us.

The Recycling Skinny on Shredded Paper . . .

Many people today are concerned about the dangers of identity theft and have purchased paper shredders to turn bank statements, credit card offers and other personal documents into unrecognizable paper strips or confetti. Although this is good for personal protection, it presents a real problem for the recycling industry because shredding cuts paper fibers into very short pieces, most of which pass through the paper-making screens and become waste. Shredded paper is also difficult to contain at the recycling facility and can contaminate other materials making them less marketable.



At this time, the best solution for shredded paper is to turn it into compost. Please put shredded paper in a paper bag (so it doesn't blow about) in your gray yard waste cart. Contents from the yard waste cart are taken to the Cedar Grove Compost facility where they become a valuable soil amendment in a process that takes about eight weeks. This helps the environment by reducing the need for synthetic fertilizers. Shredded paper can also be composted in the backyard by mixing two parts paper with one part grass.



Celebrate Earth Day!



WashWise Rebate Coupon Special Offer

For residents served by members of Cascade Water Alliance!
**Purchase a WashWise Highest Efficiency Clothes Washer
from April 15 – May 15, 2008 and receive
an additional \$50 for a total rebate of \$150!**



Submit coupon along with rebate application **within 90 days** of purchase.
For more information, visit www.washwiserebate.com or call 1-866-632-4636.

03/08 CP

Help remove invasive plants at the **Cotton Hill Park Earth Day Event** on April 19th,
9 am -12 noon.

Recycling Collection Event

PRESENTED BY: City of Kirkland & King County
WHAT: Residential Collection Event
WHERE: Houghton Park & Ride (NE 70th St & 116th Ave NE)
WHEN: Saturday, April 19th from 9 AM to 3 PM

This is a great opportunity to clean out your garage and safely recycle items that normally cannot be left at the curb with your regular Waste Management pick-up service. Examples of items that you can bring are: tires, motor oil, batteries, clothing, porcelain toilets and sinks, electronic equipment and televisions.*

Not sure what to do with those hard to recycle items? Visit King County's What Do I Do With... page from www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle.

Fluorescent tubes and bulbs can be recycled at this event! (limit 10 per person)

User Fee Items (cash only):

Porcelain toilets/sinks - \$5

Propane tanks (empty, residential only) - \$5

Small camping propane tanks (empty) - \$1

TV sets (36" or smaller) - \$20

TV sets (37" or larger, console/big screen) - \$25

TV sets (projection) - \$30

Computer monitors - \$10



Please see www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/facilities or call (206) 296-4466 for tips on securing your load.



*Restrictions apply and some items are not collected. User fees cover the cost of proper processing and recycling. All items collected will be recycled. View the flyer at www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/recycle or call the Recycling Hotline at (425) 587-3812 for more information.

Funding provided by the King County Solid Waste Division, King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Kirkland Green E-Updates

Got email? Get great information on everything "green" by subscribing to Kirkland Green E-Updates! Visit www.ci.kirkland.wa.us and under Most Requested, click on Sign Up for an E-mail News List.

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Kirkland, Washington 98033



Help reduce waste! Call (425) 587-3812 for your free reusable shopping bag – one bag per person please.

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